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MATLOCK
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



Annual Report

FOR THE
YEAR ENDING DEC. 31st, 1894,

BY

W. MOXON, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S.,
ETC.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Geo. Hodgkinson, Printer and Bookbinder, Matlock Bridge.

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To the Chairman and Members of the
Matlock Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration my Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1894.

The area of the Matlock Urban Sanitary District is 4000 square acres, and the estimated population of the district in 1893 was 5600.

The number of persons per square acre is 1·40.

The number of deaths registered as having occurred in the district during the past year ending December 31st, 1894, from all causes, was 83, of which number 14 occurred amongst visitors to the district and 69 occurred amongst the residential population. The diseases resulting in the deaths of the visitors were contracted outside the limits of the Matlock Urban Sanitary District.

The death rate per 1000 of the population, including visitors, would be at the rate of 15·8, and at the rate of 12·3 per 1000 amongst the residential population.

For the sake of comparison I append a table of the death rate of the district during the last five years.

<i>Including Visitors.</i>			<i>Residential Population</i>	
1890	.....	19·1	.....	16·6
1891	....	20·0	.....	15·7
1892	.....	15·7	.....	12·8
1893	.....	15·1	....	11·2
1894	.....	15·8	.....	12·3

Amongst the deaths which occurred during the past year the following is a list of the causes producing such results, and the number of each of the causes specified is stated.

(A) *Diseases of the Circulatory System.*

Ancæmia (Poverty of the Blood)	1
Heart Disease	8
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					9
					<hr/>

(B) *Diseases of the Digestive System.*

Atrophy (Wasting)	1
Inflammation of Stomach and Bowels	4
Liver Disease	...	...	...	...	1
Consumption of the Bowels	...	...	...	...	2
Obstruction of the Bowels	...	...	...	...	1
					<hr/>
					9
					<hr/>

(C) *Diseases of the Genito-Urinary System.*

Diseases of Kidneys	...	...	...	...	3
Inflammation around the Womb	...	...	...	...	1
					<hr/>
					4
					<hr/>

(D) *Miscellaneous Diseases (unclassified).*

Cancer of Neck	..	...	...	...	1
Disease of Spinal Bones...	...	...	...	...	1
Falling down stairs	...	...	...	...	1
Found Drowned	...	...	...	...	2
Premature Birth and insufficient Vitality	...	...	...	...	9
					<hr/>
					14
					<hr/>

(E) *Diseases of the Nervous System.*

Apoplexy (Stroke)	...	...	...	...	3
Convulsions	...	...	...	...	4
Epilepsy	...	...	...	...	3
Inflammation of Brain	...	...	...	...	1
					<hr/>
					11
					<hr/>

(F) *Old Age* 6(G) *Diseases of the Respiratory System.*

Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	3
Cancer of Chest	...	...	...	...	1
Croup	...	...	...	...	1
Spitting of Blood	...	...	...	...	1
Inflammation of Windpipe	...	...	...	...	1
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	3

Inflammation of the Lungs	...	...	...	8
Consumption	...	...	...	9
				<hr/>
				27
				<hr/>

(H) *Zymotic or Infectious Diseases.*

Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	1
Child Bed Fever	...	...	...	...	1
Measles	...	...	...	...	1
					<hr/>
					3
					<hr/>

The Zymotic death rate or death rate from infectious diseases was at the rate of '53 per 1000 of the population.

The number of Births registered as having occurred in the district during the year ending December 31st, 1894, was 133, of which number 70 were males and 63 females.

The birth rate per 1000 of the population for the same period would be 23'7.

The health of the district during the period over which this report extends has been very good, and with the exception of the outbreak of smallpox imported from Birmingham, and referred to in a special report dated May 31st, 1894, and a few sporadic cases of measles and whooping cough, the district has been entirely free from infectious diseases during the whole of the year. The cases of smallpox were limited to those mentioned in the special report referred to. At the close of the year no case of infectious disease existed to my knowledge.

During the past year many and great improvements have been effected by the Local Authority, mainly in the direction of widening roads and laying down footpaths. The improvements in Wellington Road and Lime Tree Road are particularly worthy of mention.

The stage of transition from Local Board to District Council and the elections consequent thereon has doubtless distracted attention from the subjects referred to in my last Annual Report; but now that these matters are so far settled I would respectfully draw the attention of the Matlock District Council to these subjects as urgently requiring their attention at an early period. I need not again specially refer to these matters in detail as they are fully set out in my last Annual Report dated February 26th, 1894.

I would however specially again draw the attention of the District Council to the necessity of providing, if possible, in combination with neighbouring Sanitary Authorities, a building for the isolation of infectious diseases. I consider this matter of the

greatest possible importance to a place like Matlock, both on account of the health and convenience of its inhabitants, and also on account of its being a health resort. The County Council offer the following terms to Sanitary Authorities in order to assist in carrying out this very desirable improvement:—

To give a grant of one-fifth of the cost of constructing joint Isolation Hospitals, as long as the cost does not exceed £200 per bed, the number of beds does not exceed 1 per 2000 of the population, and the contribution given is not more than £3 6s. 8d. per £1000 of the rateable value of the district, calculated on the County rate basis.

I have repeatedly visited every portion of the district during the past year, and have inspected a large number of houses. A considerable number of sanitary improvements have been carried out by your officers during this period, a detailed account of which will be found on a special form appended to this report.

I append also copy of one special report supplied to the Matlock Urban Sanitary Authority relating to the outbreak of smallpox in May, 1894, together with the mortality returns and the returns of infectious diseases, as required by the Local Government Board.

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. MOXON,

Medical Officer of Health to the Matlock
Urban District Council.

West View,
Matlock,

March 2nd, 1895.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Matlock Urban Sanitary Authority.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have to report two cases of discreet or mild Smallpox at Fairhill, Chesterfield Road, Matlock Bank.

Alice Sandford, aged 24 years, is a domestic servant in the employ of Mr. Mays-Smith, who resides at Fairhill, and a few days after her return from Birmingham, where she had been staying for a fortnight's rest, was taken ill, and a few spots appeared on her body which were thought to be Smallpox. She was at once isolated and the other occupants of the house (Mr. and Mrs. Mays-Smith) were vaccinated and went to stay in the house of a relation who resides in Matlock Bank. The patient was placed under the care of Martha Smith, aged 42 years, and about a week afterwards she was taken ill, and a similar eruption appeared on the skin.

Both cases were of a very mild character, and both have completely recovered. Every precaution was taken to isolate the patients, and there has been no further spread of the disease at present.

The house, etc., has been thoroughly disinfected, and is now being re-decorated.

Both patients have returned to their homes, one in Birmingham, and the other in Matlock Bank.

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. MOXON,

Medical Officer of Health to the Matlock
Urban Sanitary Authority.

West View,
Matlock,

May 31st, 1894.



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